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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 24th, 27th and 41st meetings, on 4 and 7 November and 9 December 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.24, 27 and 41). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 30 September to 3 October (see A/C.2/57/SR.2-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/57/271);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/57/272).

4. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.24).

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II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.30 and A/C.2/57/L.59

5. At the 27th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/57/L.30), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 of 21 December 2001 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001,

"*Recalling also* the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,

"*Emphasizing* the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020,

"*Recalling* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development,

"*Noting* the holding of the first session of the World Urban Forum, a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) does not meet, and the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat,

"*Taking note* of efforts made by UN-Habitat to forge partnerships with other United Nations funds and programmes and with international financial institutions such as the World Bank,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the new millennium to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant Millennium development goal, particularly in developing countries,

"*Reiterating* the call to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to increase her efforts to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in its resolution 3327 (XXIX), of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

"*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

"1. *Underlines* the commitments made by Governments to implement the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the Millennium development goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020;

"2. *Underlines also* the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the commitment to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, and requests UN-Habitat to support developing countries in implementing the targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter;

"3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen and institutionalize national Habitat committees as broad-based platforms for the preparation and implementation of their national plans of action based on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant Millennium development goal;

"4. *Urges* all countries to strengthen and mainstream shelter and human settlements development activities in their national development planning frameworks;

"5. *Reiterates* the invitation to Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to facilitate the dissemination of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

"6. *Reiterates also* the agreement by Governments to intensify dialogue where possible, including, inter alia, through the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country;

"7. *Encourages* Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners to evaluate and report to UN-Habitat on their implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

"8. *Calls on* developed countries and relevant international institutions and agencies to assist developing countries in their efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and in achieving the relevant Millennium development goal through the provision of additional resources, capacity-building and transfer of technology;

"9. *Welcomes* increased cooperation between UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme, including the envisaged placement

of locally recruited UN-Habitat programme managers in selected United Nations Development Programme offices in developing countries in consultation with the relevant Governments;

"10. *Reiterates* the invitation to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to implement, in accordance with paragraph 66 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the establishment of the Habitat Agenda task manager system to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"11. *Calls upon* UN-Habitat to strengthen the implementation of the Water for African Cities programme, as requested by the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"12. *Invites* Governments and relevant international institutions and agencies to increase their support to UN-Habitat to enable it to function as a fully fledged United Nations programme;

"13. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and invites Governments that are in a position to do so, and their Habitat Agenda partners, to increase their financial contributions to the Foundation in a predictable manner;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a consolidated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly'."

6. At the 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/57/L.59), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.30.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.59 (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/205 of 21 December 2001 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/38 of 26 July 2002,

Recalling further the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2]

Emphasizing the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5] as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6]

Acknowledging the holding of the first session of the World Urban Forum, a non-legislative technical forum in which experts are able to exchange views in years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet, and the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, an advisory body to the Executive Director of the Programme,

Welcoming efforts made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to forge partnerships with other United Nations funds and programmes and with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank,

Recognizing that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision of the Programme and its emphasis on the two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, especially for guiding international cooperation in respect of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Conscious of the need to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the new millennium to ensure timely, effective and concrete results in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, particularly in developing countries,

Reiterating the call to the Executive Director of the Programme to increase her efforts to strengthen the Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in its resolution 3327 (XXIX), of supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including supporting shelter, related infrastructure-development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[7] on the strengthening of the Programme,[8] and on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[9]

1. *Underlines* the commitments made by Governments to implement the Habitat Agenda[1] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[2] and to the goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3]

2. *Underlines also* the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the commitment to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, and requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support developing countries in implementing the targets in order to increase access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter;

3. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen and institutionalize national Habitat committees and other mechanisms, as appropriate, as broad-based platforms for the preparation and implementation of their plans of action based on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

4. *Urges* all countries to strengthen and mainstream shelter and human settlements development activities in their development planning frameworks;

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[7] A/57/271.
[8] A/57/272.
[9] E/2002/48.

5. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility for the sound and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and stresses that the international community should fully implement its commitments to support the Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts, through the provision of requisite resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and the creation of an international enabling environment;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance, at all levels of policy-making and in the context of sustainable development, of giving high priority to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, including achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, particularly in developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Programme to further strengthen her efforts to make the Cities Alliance Initiative an effective means for the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world;

8. *Encourages* the Programme to continue to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements, including through promoting partnerships with local authorities, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other Habitat Agenda partners so as to empower them, within the legal framework and according to the conditions of each country, to play a more effective role in shelter provision and in sustainable human settlements development;

9. *Reiterates* the invitation to Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to facilitate the dissemination of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

10. *Reiterates also* the agreement by Governments to intensify dialogue where possible, including, inter alia, through the Governing Council of the Programme, on all issues related to effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in conformity with the legal framework and policies of each country;

11. *Encourages* Governments and their Habitat Agenda partners to evaluate and report to the Programme on their implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium;

12. *Welcomes* increased cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, and notes with interest the envisaged placement of locally recruited United Nations Human Settlements Programme programme managers in selected United Nations Development Programme offices in recipient countries, in consultation with the relevant Governments;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to increase cooperation in and strengthen coordination of their activities, within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic and organizational identities, in order to promote the

implementation of the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[5] with a view to supporting sustainable development;

14. *Reiterates* the invitation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to implement, in accordance with paragraph 66 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the establishment of the Habitat Agenda task manager system to allow better monitoring and mutual reinforcement of actions taken by international agencies in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to further support the implementation of the Water for African Cities programme, as requested by the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

16. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen the Programme, and encourages her to continue such efforts;

17. *Invites* Governments and relevant international institutions and agencies to increase their support to the Programme to enhance its capacity to function as a fully fledged United Nations programme;

18. *Acknowledges also with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director of the Programme to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and invites Governments that are in a position to do so, and their Habitat Agenda partners, to increase their financial contributions to the Foundation in a predictable manner;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery of necessary services to the Programme and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi in an effective manner;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a consolidated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly".